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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #01988-84
28 March 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT: Japan Steering Group Meeting

1. Gregg, Wolfowitz, Sigur and I met on 20 March. Most of the items in the Vice President's follow-up--VANS, software, yen internationalization, satellites--are approaching resolution. Beef and citrus remain a sticking point. Although neither amounts to substantial dollar volume, they have symbolic importance.

2. STR and Agriculture will be asked whether the beef and citrus quotas due to expire at the end of March can be extended for one month so that negotiations can continue.

3. Gregg will draft a Vice President to Mansfield letter raising the possibility that, given the problems with beef and citrus, the Vice President should not visit Japan in May to meet with Nakasone. Mansfield will be asked whether cancellation of the visit will cause too much difficulty for Nakasone, and whether the threat of cancellation can be used as a lever on the Japanese. On the US side, none of us thought that cancellation would make too much difference.

4. There was some discussion of how to manage a Vice Presidential visit if it comes off. For the next meeting, we will try to think through what should be announced, where he should meet Nakasone, and how it should be billed. Underlying these considerations is a desire not to overplay or oversell what has been accomplished.

5. I suggested we move up implementation of a mechanism to succeed the Vice President's follow-up. Originally the idea was to wait until after American and Japanese elections before forming a SIG/Japan or new Cabinet Council/Japan. On reconsideration, the hiatus between the end of the Vice President's follow-up in May and the first opportunity after the elections to address new procedures is so long--around seven or eight months--that the

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effort might be forgotten or lost. On the other hand, if McFarlane were to create a SIG/Japan without any fanfare, it could start meeting in June and continue quietly through the election and afterwards. The press pays little attention to SIGs. In any case, there is nothing wrong with demonstrating that the US government is continuing to work on the trade problem. There was some agreement with this position, but no action yet.

6. of OEA helped prepare me for the Steering Group meeting. 25X1


David D. Gries

cc: C/OEA/NA/J

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